

REFLECTIONS ON 1999

Last year, the Memphis Depot completed a number of important steps in the ongoing environmental cleanup process. These achievements have allowed the Memphis Depot and the community to move closer to the goal of safely restoring the Depot property and returning it to productive reuse.

- A Finding of Suitability to Lease (FOSL 8) was completed for all remaining areas of the Main Installation that were not included in previous FOSLs. This was a significant milestone in the closure and property reuse program as it allowed property on the Main Installation to be subleased by the Depot Redevelopment Corporation of Memphis and Shelby County (DRC) to businesses.
- Dieldrin and PCB-impacted soil was removed from the "J" Street Café area. Lead-based paint and dieldrin impacted soil was removed from the housing area on the Main Installation.
- A Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) for the housing area was completed and provided to the public for review and comment. This document is an important part of the reuse of the property and is required for the property to be transferred from the Department of Defense.
- The Remedial Investigation (RI) fieldwork for the Main Installation and Dunn Field, which included groundwater sampling and a comprehensive soil-sampling program, was completed. The RI report has been drafted and will be available for public review in the spring. This information will be used to prepare the Feasibility Study of cleanup alternatives.
- Four more recovery wells were installed at Dunn Field as part of the pump and discharge system. Four more groundwater monitoring wells were installed west of Dunn Field to evaluate the effectiveness of the pump and discharge system.
- Copies of environmental documents and

the Administrative Record were put on CD ROM. The community can now access copies of documents related to the Depot cleanup program from the computers at the Information Repositories.

- A website with information about the Memphis Depot Caretaker Division's environmental restoration



Stanley Tyler checks out the new Depot website in the Information Repository located at Building 144 of the Main Installation. We thank Mr. Tyler for his assistance in the development of the website.

program was launched at www.ddc.dla.mil/memphis as another tool to keep the community informed about the ongoing cleanup. The site is still under construction, but will eventually contain documents related to the cleanup, current and past copies of EnviroNews, and links to other information on the restoration program.

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile District, awarded the \$15-million Preplaced Remedial Action Contract (PRAC) to Sverdrup Civil Engineering of

St. Louis, Missouri, for environmental cleanup activities at the Memphis Depot. Sverdrup plans to subcontract work to a number of local companies.

- The Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) recommending cleanup alternatives for the old paint shop and maintenance area, (parcels 35 and 28) was completed. A Public Comment Meeting was held May 20, 1999, at the Memphis Depot. Contractors and other agencies were available to answer questions regarding the EE/CA, and time was allotted for comments from the public. The formal public comment period began on May 17, and was extended through July 15.
- The EE/CA recommending cleanup alternatives for the chemical warfare materiel at Dunn Field was completed. A Public Comment Meeting and an Availability Session were held June 17, 1999, at the Memphis Depot. Contractors and other related agencies participated in the event and time set aside allotted for comments from the public. The formal public comment period began June 1, and was extended through August 9.
- S&W Asphalt and Paving completed construction of a paved road, applied grass seed and installed a temporary sprinkler system on more than 20 acres at Dunn Field. This action is controlling the dust at the site.
- All the fluorspar and bauxite mounds have been removed from Dunn Field. □

Removal of fluorspar piles from Dunn Field.



Our Legal Environment



In 1980, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) was passed by Congress to investigate and clean up sites, including federal facilities such as the Memphis Depot. The CERCLA sets out a series of steps for identifying and solving cleanup issues. Each step must be followed, completed and approved by federal and state environmental regulators before the next step can begin.

Step One:

1981 Preliminary Assessment (PA): Researched history of site and identified potential areas of environmental impact.

Step Two:

1986 Site Investigation (SI): Information from the PA was used to conduct sampling and analysis in order to better define possible locations of environmental impact.

Step Three:

1990 Remedial Investigation (RI): An initial RI, to determine the nature and extent of environmental impact, was conducted.

1990 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Facility Assessment: EPA conducted a Facility Assessment and identified additional areas of concern.

1995 Follow-up RI: Workplans for a follow-up RI were completed and approved by the EPA and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

1998 Chemical warfare materiel characterization: The fieldwork was completed to determine the extent and nature of the chemical warfare materiel (CWM) at Dunn Field.

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